

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6178

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a demonstration program to facilitate the clinical adoption of pregnancy intention screening initiatives by health care and social service providers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a demonstration program to facilitate the clinical adoption of pregnancy intention screening initiatives by health care and social service providers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Questions  
5 to Understand Intentions for Pregnancy Act of 2020” or  
6 the “EQUIP Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PREGNANCY INTENTION SCREENING INITIATIVE**  
2 **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

3 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
4 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 399V-7. PREGNANCY INTENTION SCREENING INITIA-**  
7 **TIVE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary,  
9 through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control  
10 and Prevention, shall establish a demonstration program  
11 to facilitate the clinical adoption of pregnancy intention  
12 screening initiatives by health care and social service pro-  
13 viders.

14 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary may carry out the  
15 demonstration program through awarding grants to eligi-  
16 ble entities to implement pregnancy intention screening  
17 initiatives, collect data, and evaluate such initiatives.

18 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity under  
20 this section is an entity described in paragraph (2)  
21 that provides non-directive, comprehensive, medically  
22 accurate information.

23 “(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of  
24 paragraph (1), an entity described in this paragraph  
25 is a community-based organization, voluntary health  
26 organization, public health department, community

1 health center, or other interested public or private  
2 primary, behavioral, or other health care or social  
3 service provider or organization.

4 “(d) PREGNANCY INTENTION SCREENING INITIA-  
5 TIVE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘pregnancy  
6 intention screening initiative’ means any initiative by an  
7 eligible entity to routinely screen women with respect to  
8 their pregnancy desires and goals to either prevent unin-  
9 tended pregnancies or improve the likelihood of healthy  
10 pregnancies, in order to better provide health care that  
11 meets the contraceptive or pre-pregnancy needs and goals  
12 of such women.

13 “(e) EVALUATION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
15 through the Director of the Centers for Disease  
16 Control and Prevention, shall, by grant or contract,  
17 and after consultation as described in paragraph (2),  
18 conduct an evaluation of the demonstration pro-  
19 gram, with respect to pregnancy intention screening  
20 initiatives, conducted under this section. Such an  
21 evaluation shall include:

22 “(A) Assessment of the implementation of  
23 pregnancy intention screening protocols among  
24 a diverse group of patients and providers, in-  
25 cluding collecting data on the experiences and

1 outcomes for diverse patient populations in a  
2 variety of clinical settings.

3 “(B) Analysis of outcome measures that  
4 will facilitate effective and widespread adoption  
5 of such protocols by health care providers for  
6 inquiring about and responding to pregnancy  
7 goals of women with both contraceptive and  
8 pre-pregnancy care.

9 “(C) Consideration of health disparities  
10 among the population served.

11 “(D) Assessment of the equitable and vol-  
12 untary application of such initiatives to minor-  
13 ity and medically underserved communities.

14 “(E) Assessment of the training, capacity,  
15 and ongoing technical assistance needed for  
16 providers to effectively implement such preg-  
17 nancy intention screening protocols.

18 “(F) Assessment of whether referral sys-  
19 tems for selected protocols follow evidence-based  
20 standards that ensure access to comprehensive  
21 health services and appropriate follow-up care.

22 “(G) Measuring through rigorous methods  
23 the effect of such initiatives on key health out-  
24 comes.

1           “(2) CONSULTATION WITH INDEPENDENT EX-  
2           PERTS.—In conducting any evaluation under para-  
3           graph (1), the Director of the Centers for Disease  
4           Control and Prevention shall consult with physi-  
5           cians, physician assistants, advanced practice reg-  
6           istered nurses, registered nurses, nurse midwives,  
7           and other health care providers who specialize in  
8           women’s health, and other experts in public health,  
9           clinical practice, program evaluation, and research.

10           “(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
11           the last day of the demonstration program under  
12           this section, the Director of the Centers for Disease  
13           Control and Prevention shall submit to Congress a  
14           report on the results of the evaluation conducted  
15           under paragraph (1) and shall make the report pub-  
16           licly available.

17           “(f) FUNDING.—

18           “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
19           To carry out this section, there is authorized to be  
20           appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
21           2021 through 2023.

22           “(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent  
23           of funds appropriated to carry out this section pur-  
24           suant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal year may be used

1 for purposes of the evaluation under subsection  
2 (e).”.

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